

Sparta

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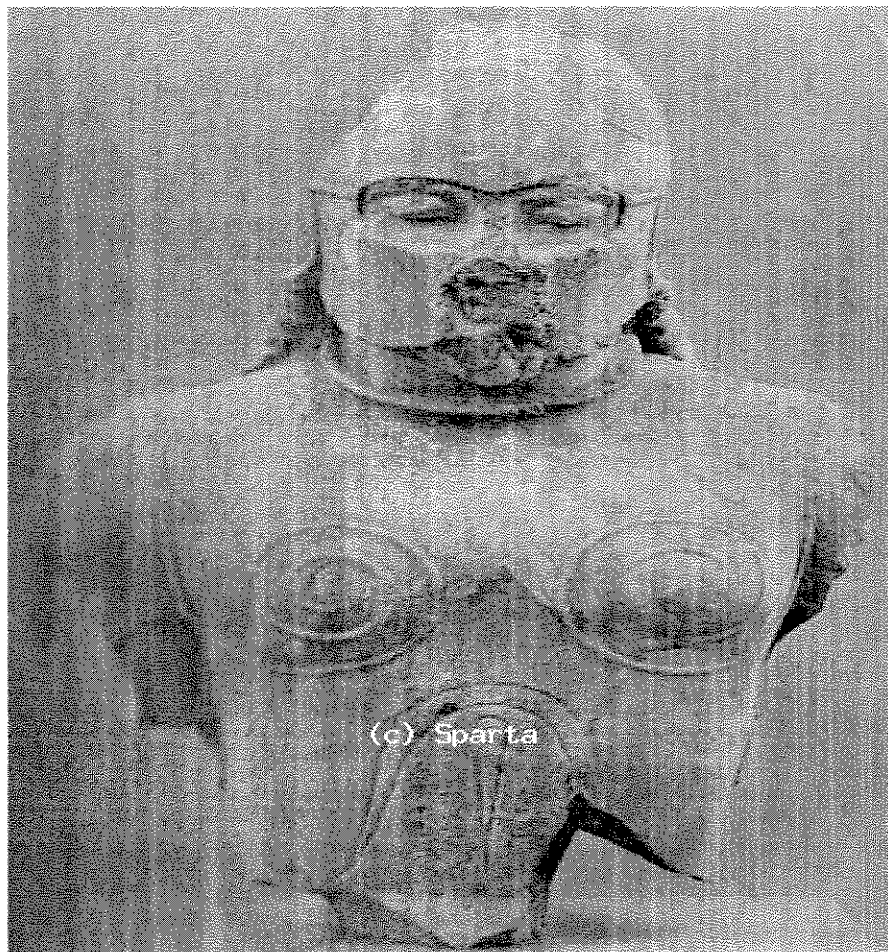
- Spartan Army -

- # Spartan Army
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Spartans wore heavy armor even if under the sun in the summer when marching or fighting. It was harder than most of the sports and physical training. They usually had crimson, tunic and cloak and special shoes.

Crimson Clothing

Lakedaimonians wore a crimson robe and a bronze shield because the robe was most warlike and resembled women's clothing and the shield could be tarnished slowly and polished easily. The crimson later became sanctioned for formal legislation. If the gods granted victory, Xenophon would wear his best clothes for the battle to mark the occasion. Also if he would die, it was fitting to meet one's fate well attired. In the 4th century crimson seems appropriate to talk of uniform military dress, which may sometimes have been issued by a commander.